

Andrew Jackson to John Reid, December 30, 1812, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO JOHN REID.

Nashville, December 30, 1812

Sir: your note by Mr Thomas Easten, was this moment handed me, bearing date the 30th. instant. From the recommendation of my boosom friends as well as from the small acquaintance I had with you, I felt truly gratified, on the information, that you would become one of my family, during the present Campaign, as soon as your consent was known to me, I made it known in a general order, Issued for the purpose to make known that the organization of the detachment was compleated, and that you were appointed my second aid in the room of Mr Fletcher resigned. how any distinction between aids crept into the order, at present I cannot say. Colo. Benton was still acting as aid, and as far as his time and duty from his regiment, would permit render all the aid in his power. This is the only general order that has been published, therefore I suppose the only one you alude to, and I am really astonished that this should be even noted in your letter, as at that time it was well known to you that Colo. Benton still continued to act as one of my aids, and had acted in that capacity for a long time. Being advised by our mutual friend Colo. Coffee, that he was fearfull, that there was something that coroded your feelings, to prevent which and that harmony might prevail, I requested him to explain to you fully which I am confident he must have done, in that explanation I have no doubt he brought to your view, that there was no differrence in the rank pay or emoluments of aids, and which I did hope would be fully satisfactory, and restore your feelings, for I beg you to believe, that nothing would give me more pain, than that any act of mine should tend to injure the feelings of any individual. I did expect the greatest harmony, this was my sole object, added to talent and

Library of Congress

respectability, which I was certain of in the choice I had made. Sir If there is any thing that has arisen that has given you an idea, of the contrary it is without my knowledge, and altho it would fill me with the greatest regret, that I should be deprived of your aid and service, still a duty I owe to you, compels me to say, that if any circumstances has arisen since the explanation by Colo Coffee that makes your situation unpleasant or disagreeable, I have only to add, that I sincerely regret it, and that I would not, (let the inconvenience to me be what it might,) hold you one moment longer than, your pleasure dictated to you to remain. Accept assurances of my respect and Esteem